

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 121355Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, IS, JO
SUBJ: AL QUDS CHARTS NEW EDITORIAL COURSE

SUMMARY: THE WEST BANK'S LEADING ARABIC DAILY HAS RECENTLY CHARTED
A NEW EDITORIAL COURSE STRESSING: FIRST, REALISTIC ANALYSIS
AND EXPECTATIONS IN PALESTINIAN POLITICES; SECOND, RESPONSIBILITIES
OF WEST BANK AND GAZAN PALESTINAINA IN DECIDING THEIR FATE.
MEANWHILE, ITS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HAS QUIETLY SLIPPED OVER TO
AMMAN APPARENTLY WITH SOME USUAL HELP FROM THE GOI. END
SUMMARY.

1. EAST JERUSALEM'S LEADING DAILY AL QUDS (MODERATE AND
PRO-JORDANIAN) HAS RECENTLY PURSUED TWO NOVEL THEMES IN ITS
EDITORIAL CLUMNS: REASLISM AND LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY.

2. REALISM ON MAY 8 "AL QUDA" CITED THE HISTORICAL MISTAKES
COMMITTED BY PALESTINIANS IN PURSUING RIGIDLY MAXIMAL GOALS,
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E.G. OPPOSITION TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON ANY PART OF
PALESTINE. BLINDED BY THE STRONG CONVICTION OF THEIR RIGHTS,
AL QUDS ARGUED, ARABS IGNORED OTHER ASPECTS OF THE STRUGGLE,
E.G. PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION, AT WHICH ZIONISTS EXCELLED.
CITING THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR SETTING GOALS AND PRIORITIES,
AL QUDS ASSIGNED "AND END TO THE OCCUPATION" TOP PRIORITY AND
COUNSELLED AGAINST WASTING EFFORTS ON SIDE ISSUES.

3. RESPONSIBILITY. ON MAY 7, AL QUDA CALLED FOR A LOUDER VOICE FOR PALESTINIANS UNDER OCCUPATION IN DETERMINING THE FATE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. "WHERE DO WE CITIZENS OF THE WEST BANK STAND? HAVE WE PLAYED THE ROLE WE ARE SUPPOSED TO PERFORM AS THE MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY SUGGESTIONS AND OPINIONS (ON THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA)? HAVE WE RISEN TO THE LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY WHICH FALLS UPON US AS WE DRAW NEARER TO THE ELEVENTH YEAR OF OCCUPATION?" AL QUDS THEN GOES ON TO CRITICIZE THOSE WHO RESTRICT LOCAL PALESTINIANS TO A PASSIVE ROLE. LOCAL PALESTINIANS CAN CLAMOR TO SPEAK, AL QUDS ARGUED, BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT THE LARGEST SINGLE GROUP OF PALESTINIANS, AND MOREOVER, THEY ARE HERE PRESENT ON THE LAND.

4. BOTH THEMES ARE REITERATED MAY 10 IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "BETWEEN MAY (1948) AND JUNE (1967)." THEREIN AL QUDS CALLS FOR OBJECTIVE STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF THE PALESTINIAN CATASTROPHE BY THE LARGE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY UNDER OCCUPATION WHICH, ALTHOUGH BUT PART OF THE ARAB WORLD, IS A PART WHICH HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE PAST 11 YEARS.

5. AL QUDS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MAHMOUD ABU ZALAF HAS LONG PRIVATELY HELD ABOVE VIEWS, BUT HAS SEEN NO REASON TO EXPOSE HIMSELF TO FIRE FROM THE PLO IN ESPOUSING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEM PUBLICLY.

6. ALTHOUGH THE AL QUDS OFFICE REFUSES TO DISCLOSE ABU ZALAF'S WHEREABOUTS, HE WAS SEEN ON HIS WAY TO THE ALLENBY BRIDGE BY A RELIABLE SOURCE MAY 7. THAT DAY OTHER RESIDENTS OF JERUSALEM WERE TURNED BACK BECAUSE OF THE KATYUSHA ATTACK MAY 6, BUT ABU ZALAF APPARENTLY WAS ALLOWED TO CROSS TO AMMAN.

7. BACKGROUND AL QUDS NEW LINE SEPTTEL. KRUSE

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